



# Notre Dame Club of Northern Alabama



July 1999

## Student Send-Off, Summer Social, General Membership Meeting

The Notre Dame Club of Northern Alabama will converge on the Wind River Drive home of club member Hugo Hardt '55 for our annual Summer Social and General Membership meeting. This gathering will be held on Tuesday, August 17, 1999 will combine several previously separate events into one fun-filled evening with our local Notre Dame community. All those dues-paying club members who attend will be eligible for a special Door Prize.

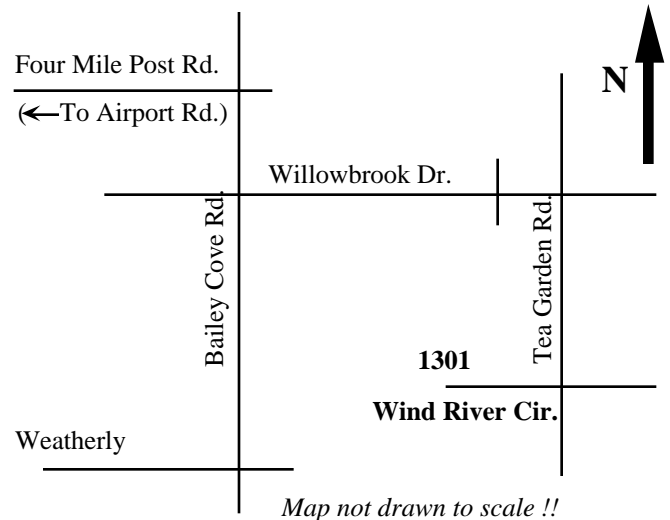
The Summer Social is primarily an opportunity for our club membership to meet and visit. Of course, such endeavors are usually more successful when there's food involved, so the ND Club of Northern Alabama will provide barbecue, "fixins," desert and beverages. An additional feature of this gathering is Hugo's pool, which provides welcomed relief from the Alabama August heat, and has proven instrumental in keeping younger club members entertained.

Another aspect of this event is the opportunity to meet our local Notre Dame-bound students and wish them well as they head off for their academic year. This year we are fortunate to be sending off three students, all of whom will be entering their freshman year at Notre Dame. They are Meghan Lynch (Grissom), Johnny Dias (Grissom) and Kimberly Talianko (Grissom). I'm sure you'll find Meghan, Johnny and Kimberly to be quite impressive young adults, and it will be a pleasure to know and support them as they progress through their time at Notre Dame.

A final aspect of our gathering will be the General Membership Meeting. This will involve addressing a few key club business issues, including the election of club officers for the upcoming year. After the election, the drawing for the Door Prize will be held. The lucky winner will receive two tickets to the Notre Dame – Tennessee game on November 6.

The directions to Hugo Hardt's home at 1301 Wind River Circle, Huntsville are:

- Go south (from Four Mile Post Rd) on Bailey Cove Road and take a left (east) on Willowbrook Drive.
- Go 2 blocks past the apartments, and turn right (south) on Tea Garden Road.
- Travel 2 blocks and turn right (west) on Wind River Circle.
- You will go into a cul-de-sac and you'll be there!!!



## Football Ticket Raffle

This year's football ticket raffle will be offering two tickets for the ND – USC game on October 16. Proceeds from this raffle will benefit the Club's Scholarship Fund. Tickets will be \$5 each or 6 for \$25. Tickets will be available at the Summer Social, Game Watches at Diamonds, or by contacting Jane Wyatt.

## Kansas Game Weekend Status

A lottery was not needed to allocate tickets for the game weekend, therefore all who applied received their request. Game packages are still available although they will be made available to the general public one week after publication of this newsletter. Details for the trip will be mailed at that time also. Contact David Tarkowski at 883-4868 for information and ticket requests.

## Attention Alumni

Your contribution to the Annual Fund can be earmarked for the Northern Alabama Club's scholarship fund. You can either designate this on your contribution directly to the University or by sending your contribution directly to the Notre Dame Club of Northern Alabama, 2612 Craft Avenue, Huntsville, AL 35816. The Club forwards all contributions which it receives by early December, therefore alumni will receive the proper credit for their contribution. Matching contributions from your employer may also be designated for the Club's scholarship fund. For more information, contact Jane Wyatt at 842-8692.

## Club Officer Nominations for Club Years 2000-2001

Nominations for club officers for the next two years have been opened. Nominations will be closed at the General Membership Meeting/Summer Student Sendoff Picnic, at which time the election will be held. Current nominations are:

President	Mark Richards
Vice President	Joe Szedula
Treasurer	Jane Wyatt
Secretary	Kathy Kosis

Additional nominations should be sent to David Tarkowski at 7806 Bridgewell Run, Huntsville, AL 35802.

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## Millennium Series T-Shirt Sales

Our club, along with the Knoxville club, is selling T-shirts for the Notre Dame vs. Tennessee games on November 6, 1999 and November 3, 2001. The T-shirts will cost \$16 (short sleeve) and \$20 (long sleeve) and will be available in the sizes L, XL, and 2XL (\$1.50 extra). The profits made on the T-shirt sales will be used to support our Adopt-a-Family program.

For more information or to purchase a T-shirt contact Dave Tarkowski at 883-4868 (home) or 890-3318 (work).



## Summer Service Project

The greatness of one's ability to reason, to appreciate, and often, the mere ability to show compassion is never truly tested until he or she is placed in an environment both unfamiliar and challenging- an environment so different that distinguishing truth from falsities is a challenge all in its own. As I near the end of my summer service project here in Huntsville, I find myself discovering that an environment is only as unfamiliar and challenging as you allow it to be. Through the organizations I have been so blessed to become part of this summer, I have discovered that there is a wall in all of us. This wall is the barrier between settling for what we know and what is comfortable and the barrier that demands us to push through the hardships, the frustrations, and even the tears. I found my wall, and I found myself faced with the fear that I might be the one who stood there settling for my "comforts." I am thankful for every day that I have shared and for each person I met along my journey. I know that I would not be the person I am without my Lord and Savior, to whom I give my love and praise.

My experience in Huntsville incorporates aspects of volunteerism from children, animals, and the elderly. Through the Volunteer Center, I was teamed up with four local agencies in need of volunteer assistance this summer. I worked with the National Children's Advocacy Center, Kid's Care Program, the Greater Huntsville Humane Society, and Operation Nehemiah of Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church. Each organization added a spice to my summer soup. No two experiences were alike, and often I found myself confused of my purpose for being here.

My primary duty at the Advocacy Center was to baby-sit toddlers belonging to teen mothers who attended classes to improve their stand in life, receiving information about child care and research concerning possible college grants and continued education programs. Kid's Care is a program designed to encourage the youths of Huntsville and surrounding areas to become involved in local events and to give back to the community. Each week, 15-20 young children came together to participate in planned activities designed to improve the community. These activities included elder care, bingo, and aerobics, beautifying the park, harvesting vegetables, and collecting supplies for the homeless.

The Greater Huntsville Humane Society brought out a part of my personality I will never be able to explain in words. There is a simple and pure satisfaction involved with the association of animals. For me, and to the misfortunes of my parents, a soft spot lies in my heart for animals of all shapes and sizes. In fact, I must admit I adopted a little kitten and she is now happily living in the Florida sunshine with my parents. The lessons I learned from the Humane

Society I feel I must address. From my work at the Humane Society, I have learned to appreciate life and even more importantly, I learned about people and their "shiny toys" as I like to call them. To see a child or adult light up after adopting an animal is by far a wonderful gift. Knowing that some cat or dog has been given a second or third chance can bring you to tears. At the same rate, seeing people give up on these animals because they have gotten too big or because their shiny toys seem not to shine anymore makes you step back and wonder how could anyone be so cruel to love with conditions. Love is unconditional, or rather, love should be unconditional. I found myself becoming personally attached with every animal that came through the humane society. Each had its own distinct personality, but in the end, each shared the common desire for love and affection. I feel this desire for love and affection flows within each of us.

I would like to speak now of my experience with Operation Nehemiah. This program was designed to provide children and adolescents an alternative this summer to possible violence and to serve as a positive haven. Students are taught the principles of math, reading, and writing. The second half of the day was filled with sporting and social activities, including day trips to Birmingham and Point Mallard. Earlier I mentioned the "wall" and the point in our lives where we either forge ahead or turn back without ever knowing what may possibly await us on the other side. For me, my "wall" was found outside Operation Nehemiah. I stood outside this wall for days before I attempted the climb.

The initial experience with Operation Nehemiah was not favorable. In fact, I had my doubts of returning. The problem was not easily recognizable. Many factors played into my hesitation and  
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(continued from Summer Service Project)  
frustration. I was assigned to work primarily with children entering into the first grade. I remember leaving on my first day in tears. I could not understand how five and six year olds could not write the alphabet or know what color crayon they were using. To see children in the program incredibly needy for attention and devastated when it was time to go home completely shocked me. I was face-to-face with something I had never experienced. My fear and frustration almost prevented me from climbing my wall. I was comfortable believing that it was not real, believing that this did not go on. Looking back, climbing my wall was the only thing I could have done. There is a part of Notre Dame that travels with you. It is the part that pushes you to give, and to give blindly. I conquered my wall, even though there were still times that I wondered if it was worth it. Today, I am leaving ten five and six-year-olds who call me Miss Melissa and that I eventually came to love blindly. These children have left a mark on my heart and my soul that will never be forgotten nor removed. You never really know what you have until you see someone without it. I once asked myself if it was worth it, my answer is simple. The wall I climb today will be where I rest my feet tomorrow. No journey is complete until you have been taken to your own limits. No journey is worth taking that doesn't demand for you to believe in yourself and trust in others.

My experience in Huntsville has consumed eight weeks of my life. As little as that may seem, eight weeks can definitely mold you and leave a lasting impact upon your life. As I write the summary of my

time spent in Huntsville, I am with great sadness. I know that I am leaving with the memories of a lifetime and the experiences that have and will always remind me of my purpose and God's ultimate plan for my life. I would like to express a sincere thank you to all the members of the North Alabama Notre Dame Club and their continued support of the summer service program. I would like to extend my appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Mark Richards and their three wonderful children (and Kelly, too) for hosting me this summer. As well, I would like to thank the entire Whepley and Lewis family, -Eric, Lynn, (Zeto,) and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis- for treating me as a member of their family and introducing me to the finer parts of Huntsville, theaters and pool parties alike. You have made me remember why I chose Notre Dame. There is a family that stretches beyond the Golden Dome and the streets of South Bend. It is found in every heart that shares the Notre Dame experience. I thank you for reminding me of my purpose and showing me that love and compassion is and should always be unconditional. I came here as a child eager to learn. I am leaving Huntsville as a young woman, full of the belief that I might one day leave a mark in someone's life as you have done for me. I am thankful and honored to have shared my eight weeks in Huntsville. The rewards are endless and my memories are priceless. I thank you for giving me the strength to fight each day and to do the works of the Lord. Notre Dame is magical. May its magic remain in you always.

Melissa Gormley

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### Board of Directors

August 31, 1997 through July 31, 1999

#### President

Dave Tarkowski '68,'70  
H 883-4868  
W 890-3318  
dtarkows@mitre.org

#### Vice President

Mark Richards '85  
H 880-8519  
W 461-4506  
mark.l.richards@lmco.com

#### Treasurer

Jane Wyatt  
H 536-0276  
W 842-8692  
wyatt-lj@redstone.army.mil

#### Secretary

Kathy Kosis  
H 837-4509  
W 722-4631  
kathy.kosis@lmco.com

#### Alumni/Schools

Bill Mordan '68  
H 883-1701  
W 544-2011  
bill.mordan@msfc.nasa.gov

#### Communications

Joe Szedula '80,'82  
H 828-1343  
W 922-3314  
joe.szedula@hsv.ast.lmco.com

#### Membership

Sonnie Hereford '79  
H 722-0369  
W 890-3241  
hunchback@mindspring.com

#### Community Service

George Harvey  
H 353-6280  
W 544-0406  
george.harvey@msfc.nasa.gov

#### Community Service (deputy)

Barbara Breithaupt '87  
H 721-1101  
W 544-5401  
barbara.breithaupt@msfc.nasa.gov

#### Publicity

Joanne Harvey  
H 353-6280

#### Social Events

Dave Tarkowski '68,'70  
H 883-4868  
W 890-3318  
dtarkows@mitre.org

#### UND Celebration

Mark Richards '85  
H 880-8519  
W 461-4506  
mark.l.richards@lmco.com

#### Summer Service Project

Eric Lewis '89  
H 650-0858  
W 922-0802 x2249  
elewis@aegisrc.com

#### Vacant Positions:

Continuing Education  
Young Alumni  
Phone Tree Volunteers

### Membership

Every ND supporter is welcome; not just alumni. Dues are \$20 per person for the 1999-2000 year, which will keep a member in good standing until July 31, 2000. Your dues help us cover the cost of printing and mailing our newsletter, and helps to offset the expenses of our activities.

Remember, your annual membership dues for 1999-2000 must be paid if you wish to be eligible for the 1999 season football game trip. Send your \$20 per member to: ND Club of Northern Alabama 2612 Craft Avenue, Huntsville, AL 358162

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home No: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Work No: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(You'll receive an e-mail message when a new electronic newsletter is published)

Graduation Year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Amt. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20/year/person)

Scholarship Amt.\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to:  
ND Club of Northern Alabama

#### Club Use Only

Treasurer

Membership

Clip and Mail to:

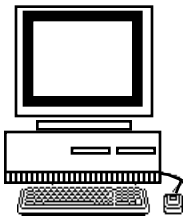
ND Club of Northern Alabama  
2612 Craft Ave.  
Huntsville, AL 35816

\* Contributions to Scholarship Fund are tax deductible

\*\* Remember to check for the availability of matching funds from your company.

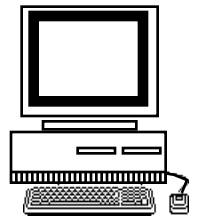
## Coming Events

<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Where</u>
• Summer Social & General Membership Meeting	August 17 6PM	Home of Hugo Hardt 1301 Wind River Circle, Huntsville
• Club Elections	August 17 6PM	Home of Hugo Hardt 1301 Wind River Circle, Huntsville
• Kansas Game Trip	August 28	Notre Dame
• Game Watches	Every Football Weekend	Diamond's Food & Spirits, 11220 South Memorial Parkway



Updates to the club's "Coming Events" are regularly posted on our web site. The newsletter and information on club activities can also be found on our web site. You can subscribe to our electronic newsletter notice on our web site so you're notified each time something new is posted. Our web site is located at:

[http://alumni.nd.edu/~ndc\\_n\\_al/](http://alumni.nd.edu/~ndc_n_al/)



**ND Club of Northern Alabama**  
7806 Bridgewell Run  
Huntsville, AL 35802

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